available at hospitals in view of the increasing AIDS threat;

(b) if so, the details of the steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether the professional donors of the blood are suspected to be the highly AIDS infected;

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check their blood before accepting by hospitals; and

(e) whether any legislation is likely to be brought in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The Government have already taken up a programme in hand to ensure that safe and infection-free blood is used for transfusion purposes. HIV testing facilities have been established in 180 centres and linkages have been provided to all the blood banks to get the blood samples tested in such centres. Simple and rapid test kits are being provided in 372 District Centres which are basically transfusion centres. In addition, the rules framed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act have been made more stringent and the inspection machinery has been strengthened to facilitate strict compliance of the mandatory requirements.

(c) It is true that professional donors of blood are likely to be hosts of several blood-transmissible infections, including HIV.

(d) The mandatory requirement of testing every unit of blood before it is used for transfusion and the strengthening of the inspection machinery are the two basic steps taken by the Government in this respect.

(e) The rules framed under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act are mandatory and do provide the statutory support to the measures taken up in hand.

Replacement of Original Eye Cases Registered at National Eye Bank of the R. P. Centre

2820. SHRI W. KULABIDHU SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of cases categorised as 'Top Priority' and 'General Priority' cases at the National Eye Bank of the R. P. Centre at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for replacement of original eyes alongwith the names of the patients (children) registered therein;

(b) what is the number of cases under the category 'Top Priority' cases who have been provided with original eyes during the year 1992-93 alongwith the number of those who are still in the waiting list;

(c) whether Government propose to accord top most priority to very serious cases registered with the R. P. Centre of the AIIMS and if so, by when original eyes would be replaced in respect of each of such cases;

(d) what is the main reasons for non-availability of eyes in the Centre; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) and (d) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to refer such cases to private Hospitals in order to guard better the interests of serious cases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The Dr. R. P. Centre of All India Institute of Medical Sciences has reported that in August, 1993 the total number of cases registered for replacement of original eyes are as under:

Top Priority	—	2171 (Children 301)
Priority	—	1750 (Children 98)

(b) In the year 1992-93, 160 corneal graftings were done in the Top Priority category.

(c) Priority is already being assigned but no time limit can be fixed in view of the shortage in the availability of eyes.

(d) and (e) Although socio-cultural factors including misbeliefs effect the programme, efforts are being made to enthuse the public towards donating eyes. Grant-in-aid is also being provided to the Voluntary Sector to establish eye banks. Referral and private hospitals are, however, not covered by the present Government policy.

Family Welfare Centres in the Country

2821. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of family welfare centres functioning all over the country, State-wise;